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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS1. Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-43 and 51 remain in this application. Claims 44-50 have been cancelled in order to expedite allowance of this application, with the applicant reserving the right to file continuing applications directed to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 15, 21 and 38 have been amended to better define and more clearly recite the invention. No new matter has been added by amendment.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-14, 30-37 and 51 are allowable.

3. Remarks

The Examiner is thanked for all of the courtesies extended to the undersigned and Cedric D'Hue during the telephonic interview of February 26, 2007. During the interview, independent claims 15, 21, 38, and 44 were discussed in view of the cited art.

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,963,103 to Cowen, U.S. Patent No. 6,619,447 to Garcia and U.S. Patent No. 5,881,875 to Beurekjian.

In light of the telephonic interview, independent claim 15 has been amended to include additional subject matter, including elements of allowed claim 1. The relied-upon references fail to disclose an accessory compartment having an egg-shaped cross-section corresponding to the truncated egg-shaped cross section of a racquet compartment, alone or in combination with a carrying strap extending from the upper portion of the accessory compartment proximate an apex to the lower portion of the accessory compartment. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,963,103 to Cowen, U.S. Patent No. 4,085,873 to Schweitzer or U.S. Patent No. 6,138,881 to Paul et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,413,199 to Clement.

In light of the telephonic interview, independent claim 21 has been amended to positively recite a canister of tennis balls received within a ball storage pocket. As such, it is respectfully

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submitted that claim 21, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,773,535 to Cook in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,238,305 to Feller.

In light of the telephonic interview, independent claim 38 has been amended to better define and more clearly recite the loop element. Independent claim 38 now requires, among other things, a loop receiving an intermediate portion of a retaining strap, a second end of the retaining strap wrapping over the intermediate portion in an overlapping relationship. The references of Cook and Feller fail to disclose a loop receiving an intermediate portion of a retaining strap, a second end of the retaining strap wrapping over the intermediate portion in an overlapping relationship. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 38, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

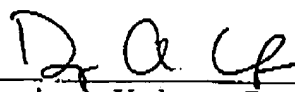
4. Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the solicited claims are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

If necessary, applicants request that this response be considered a request for an extension of time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this amendment be charged to the account of Baker & Daniels, Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below should any question or comment arise during reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,


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